



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fargo Man Found Guilty of Federal Drug and Firearm Charges

FARGO - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley today announced that a 12-person jury found **Kristopher Kai Hamberg** of Fargo, North Dakota, guilty of conspiracy to possess methamphetamine with intent to distribute and two counts of using a firearm in furtherance of a drug-trafficking crime. United States District Court Judge Rodney S. Webb presided over the five-day trial.

Trial testimony established that in 2003 **Hamberg**, 39, and a co-conspirator, Marcel Vasquez, had managed a methamphetamine trafficking ring responsible for moving a large quantity of methamphetamine from the Minneapolis-St. Paul area into eastern North Dakota. **Hamberg** threatened sub-dealers at gun point to instill discipline in his distribution organization, including one incident where he pistol whipped a sub-dealer, leading to the discharge of his weapon in a West Fargo apartment. Four adults and a one-year old baby were present in the apartment at the time.

As a result of the conviction, **Hamberg** faces at least 42 years in Federal prison, without the possibility of parole, and could receive a sentence of up to life in prison.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration, and the West Fargo Police Department. Thomas J. Fahy, Resident Agent in Charge of ATF, said, "This case illustrates the successful partnership between federal and local law enforcement in fighting violent crime and keeping our streets safer."

Hamberg Press Release

Page two

June 20, 2005

Assistant U. S. Attorney Chris Myers and U. S. Attorney Drew Wrigley prosecuted the case.

“This case demonstrates that violent crime associated with drug trafficking in our communities will quickly attract the attention of Federal authorities, working closely with state law enforcement authorities,” said Myers.

U. S. Attorney Wrigley remarked that, “This defendant represents the face of meth trafficking and abuse in North Dakota. The use of violence and intimidation by distribution rings is present at an alarming rate. Detective Brad Berg of the West Fargo Police Department deserves enormous credit for igniting an intensive investigation that was later joined by ATF and which now has led to a lengthy sentence looming on **Kris Hamberg’s** horizon.”

Sentencing for **Hamberg** has been scheduled for September 20, 2005, in United States District Court in Fargo.

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